

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently amended)** An immaturable unialgal culture strain derived from spores of a marine macroalga of red algae ~~growing in a natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water and~~ having characteristics that no matured female gametophytes are detectable ~~as matured bodies in nature and only matured~~ tetrasporophytes are detectable, ~~as matured bodies~~.

said immaturable unialgal culture strain being obtained by the steps comprising:  
selectively collecting alga bodies, which have characteristics that no female gametophytes are detectable and only tetrasporophytes are detectable, from among matured bodies of a marine macroalga of red algae growing in a natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water; washing the matured portions of the tetrasporophytes of the collected alga bodies with sterilized water or sterilized seawater; keeping the matured portions standing to cause release of spores; and culturing the released alga spores in sterilized seawater.

**2. (Currently amended)** The immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 1, wherein the marine macroalga of red algae is a red alga ~~belonging which belongs~~ to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp.

**3. (Currently amended)** The immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 2, wherein the red alga ~~belonging which belongs~~ to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. is *Gracilaria verrucosa*, *Gracilaria chorda*, or a subspecies of either *Gracilaria verrucosa* or *Gracilaria chorda*.

**4. (Canceled)**

**5. (Withdrawn)** A method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain characterized by the steps of collecting matured sporophytes of a marine macroalga of red algae growing in a natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water and having

characteristics that no female gametophytes are detectable as matured bodies in nature and only tetrasporophytes are detectable as matured bodies, standing the sporophytes as cut open to cause release of the spores and culturing the released spores to continue growing and culturing after sprouting of upright bodies from germinated spores.

**6. (Withdrawn)** The method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 5, wherein the marine macroalga of red algae is a red alga belonging to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp.

**7. (Withdrawn)** The method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 6, wherein the red alga belonging to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. is *Gracilaria verrucosa*, *Gracilaria chorda*, or a subspecies thereof.

**8. (Withdrawn)** The method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 5, wherein the natural seawater area with intermixing of fresh water is a seawater area where the salt content does not exceed 1.0% by mass.

**9. (Withdrawn)** The method for producing an immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 5, wherein the immaturable unialgal culture strain has adhering algae of smaller than 10 cells in number per 400 mg of wet mass amount after 3 years of continued culturing.

**10. (Previously presented)** An alga body obtained by growing the immaturable unialgal culture strain according to claim 1.

**11. (Currently amended)** The alga body according to claim 10, wherein the marine macroalga of red algae is a red alga belonging~~which belongs~~ to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp.

**12. (Currently amended)** The alga body according to claim 11, wherein the red alga

belonging which belongs to the genus of *Gracilaria* sp. is *Gracilaria verrucosa*, *Gracilaria chorda*, or a subspecies thereeof of either *Gracilaria verrucosa* or *Gracilaria chorda*.

**13. (Cancelled)**